

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1. (Currently amended) [[A]] An *E. coli* bacterium having a genome that is genetically engineered to be at least 5% smaller than the genome of its native parent strain.
2. (Original) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein its genome is genetically engineered to be at least 8% smaller than the genome of its native parent strain and wherein there are no scars in the genome resulting from the deletions.
3. (Original) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein its genome is genetically engineered to be at least 14% smaller than the genome of its native parent strain.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the genome of the bacterium is genetically engineered to delete from the genome of the bacteria DNA selected from the group consisting of flagella gene, a restriction modification system gene, a lipopolysaccharide surface synthetic gene, an insertion sequence element, a rhs element, a non-transcribed region in the genome of the native parent strain and a gene or other DNA sequence that is not present in both of any two bacteria strains of the same species of the native parent strain.
6. (Original) An *E. coli* bacterium having a genome that is genetically engineered to be smaller than 4.27 Mb.
7. (Original) A strain of *E. coli* bacteria having a genome is genetically altered to be smaller than 4.00 Mb.
- 8-30. (Canceled)